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Brown announces plan to create and save jobs

Lansing – Senator Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, joined House and Senate colleagues today to unveil part two of a comprehensive plan to jumpstart Michigan’s stalled economy. The second phase of the legislative JOBS plan – Job Opportunities for Business Success – targets tax relief to businesses that create new jobs and eliminates many of the barriers to new job starts.

“I urge Congress to review all international trade agreements,” Brown said. “If the net-result of trade pacts put Michigan workers out of work, my arithmetic says it doesn’t add up. In the meantime, through the JOBS II initiative, we continue to do all we can at the state level to make it easier to create jobs so that our citizens can be gainfully employed. It is of great concern to me that there are those in my district who are unemployed. All work gives people dignity and hope, and I won’t stop until every effort has been made to use our best imagination and creative thinking to make it easier to do business in Michigan. The genius of the American people is that through ingenuity and hard work, we can create a brighter future. I consider job creation to be the number one issue throughout the course of this year. It is important to move beyond words to action. This package will help us on the road to recovery.”

The JOBS II plan is a call to action on Michigan’s job creation front. Specifically, JOBS II would:

- Provide tax relief to businesses that create new jobs by exempting the added payroll costs from the Single Business Tax (SBT);
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds by exempting the grants from the definition of “income” under the SBT;

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- Establish broadband on Main Street by expanding Michigan's Broadband Authority to allow for funding of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminate red-tape nightmares by creating a "bureaucracy buster team" to remove burdensome regulations for businesses and ensure departments meet firm deadlines for issuing permits;
- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business' personal property value;
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies;
- Simplify filing of Michigan Single Business Tax forms;
- Expand the use of private labs for state business by creating a state-lab accreditation program; and
- Streamline U.S.-Canadian border issues by calling on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission in order to increase the free flow of trade.

Bills implementing the JOBS II action plan are being drafted and the Legislature could start acting on them within a week. Senate and House leaders both hope to have the entire plan on the governor's desk before lawmakers break for their summer recess. Eight of the nine points from the JOBS I legislative package have been passed out of the Senate and are headed to the governor's desk.

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